(iv) Development of Greens (Indraprastha Nagri) along the river Yamuna (Rs. 50 crores).

(d) to (f) The Urban Development Fund is administered by Central Government and operated by Delhi Development Authority (DDA).There has been no diversion of funds and hence the question of compensating the State Government does not arise.

Study of Municipal Finance in small and medium towns

869. SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the study conducted by the Delhi based N.G.O. participatory Research in Asia on the Municipal Finance in the small and medium towns in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake suitable steps to enhance the financial structure of the local self bodies as recommended by the study;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Delhi-based NGO, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), has neither submitted any study report on the "Municipal Finance in small and medium towns in the country" to this Ministry nor informed about the recommendations made in the study report.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) part above.

Lease hold deeds of DDA Flats

870. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1223 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA Officers are required to sign, on behalf of the president of India, the lease deeds given when executed;

(b) if so, why DDA is not keeping a track of the cases where lease deeds have not been executed;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of old files, where lease deeds have not been executed, have been misplaced by the staff to harass and exploit the allottees; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and the action taken to retrieve/ construct the files and to execute the deeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA has reported that the allotment of flats was done either on hire-purchase basis, where the allottees were required to deposit the cost of flat in 120-240 monthly instalments or on cash down basis. After all the monthly instalments were paid by the allottees alongwith ground rent, service charges etc. to DDA, they were required to submit a request to DDA for issue of lease deed forms. Since the allottees failed to make full payment of the cost of flat and other charges to DDA and did not make any written request for execution of lease deed, there are a number of such cases where lease deeds have not been executed. No separate record of such cases was maintained at the relevant time. Further, lease deed forms were issued in a large number of cases but the allottees failed to submit the said forms duly stamped. To avoid this situation, DDA decided that the prospective allottees will have to get the lease deed forms stamped before handing over possession of the flat. Further, under the scheme for conversion of lease hold into free hold, launched in April, 1992, conversion of flat is also permitted in cases in which perpetual lease deed has not been executed.

(c) and (d) All the files were transferred to the Record Room after issue of possession letters. In case any allottee requests DDA for

execution of lease deed and the file is not readily traceable part file is immediately constructed with the approval of competent authority after obtaining attested copies of relevant documents from the applicant and lease deed is executed accordingly.

Access to Safe drinking water

871. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the survey report of The Energy and Resource Institute which reveals that today nearly 40 per cent of India's urban population has no access to safe drinking water; and

(b) if so, why the official figure and the above data differ so largely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Based on the information furnished by the State implementing agencies in charge of urban water supply and sanitation sector, it has been assessed that about 89% of the urban population have got access to drinking water facilities as on 31.3.2000. However, this coverage indicates accessibility only but availability and quantity of water supply may not be as per prescribed norms in some urban areas. A statement indicating the status of population having access to water supply facilities as on 31st March 2000 is enclosed *(See* below). As regards the assessment of the Energy and Resource Institute that 40% of India's urban population has no access to safe drinking water, it is not possible to comment on the conclusion without knowing the methodology adopted for collection of data/information, sample size, number of towns studies, source of information gathered, etc. by the said Institute.